

Message Text

PAGE 01 NATO 0413Z 051504Z

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TAGS: PFOR, NATO

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE U.S. BRIEFING IN NPG ON IMPROVED TACTICAL
NUCLEAR WEAPONS

REF: (A) STATE 137039; (B) THE HAGUE 2820; (C) THE HAGUE 3395;
(D) GENEVA 4251; (E) GENEVA 4631; (F) STATE 130630

BEGIN SUMMARY: WE UNDERSTAND THAT WASHINGTON IS CONSIDERING
THE POSSIBILITY OF BRIEFING THE NPG MINISTERIAL MEETING AT
THE HAGUE ON 6-7 NOVEMBER, ON THE STATE OF U.S. DEVELOP-
MENTAL WORK ON IMPROVEMENTS IN TACTICAL NUCLEAR WEAPONS.
THIS MISSION FAVORS SUCH A BRIEFING, AND RECOMMENDS ITS
APPROVAL.END SUMMARY.

1. THE SUBJECT OF "MINI-NUCS",OR MINIATURE NUCLEAR WEAPONS,
HAS IN RECENT MONTHS RECEIVED CONSIDERABLE ATTENTION BOTH IN
THE PRESS AND ELSEWHERE. IT HAS BEEN PARTICULARLY PROMINENT
SINCE AN ARTICLE APPEARED IN THE LONDON TIMES LAST MAY,
SHORTLY BEFORE THE ANKARA NPG MINISTERIAL MEETING, TO THE
SECRET

PAGE 02 NATO 0413Z 051504Z

EFFECT THAT THE U.S. WAS DEVELOPING MINIATURE NUCLEAR ARMS
FOR USE IN THE NATO AREA. APPARENTLY AS A RESULT OF THIS
AND OTHER NEWS ARTICLES, FRG MOD LEBER RAISED THE SUBJECT
AT THE ANKARA MINISTERIAL. THE U.S. REPRESENTATIVE ASSURED

HIM THAT, ALTHOUGH THE U.S. IS IMPROVING AND MODERNIZING ITS EXISTING TACTICAL NUCLEAR WEAPONS, IS HAS MADE NO DECISION TO DEVELOP OR DEPLOY A NEW FAMILY OF WEAPONS, AND THAT WE WOULD CONSULT FULLY WITH OUR NATO ALLIES BEFORE MAKING ANY SUCH DECISIONS.

2. SINCE THE ANKARA MEETING, "MINI-NUCS" (THAT IS, THE GENERAL SUBJECT OF SMALLER, CLEANER, MORE ACCURATELY DELIVERED TACTICAL NUCLEAR WEAPONS) HAVE CONTINUED TO RECEIVE PERIODIC ATTENTION. FOR EXAMPLE:

(A) A MEMBER OF AN FRG BUNDESTAG DEFENSE COMMITTEE RAISED THE QUESTION WITH SECRETARY SCHLESINGER DURING THE COMMITTEE'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON (REF (A)).

(B) DUTCH PARLIAMENTARIANS HAVE TWICE PUT QUESTIONS ON THE SUBJECT TO THE NETHERLANDS GOVERNMENT (REFS (B) AND (C)).

(C) THE MATTER WAS DISCUSSED LAST APRIL DURING TESTIMONY OF MGEN GILLER OF THE AEC BEFORE A SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON ATOMIC ENERGY. THE TESTIMONY WAS LATER PUBLISHED AND RECEIVED ATTENTION IN THE PRESS IN MID-JULY.

(D) SWEDEN HAS POSED SPECIFIC QUESTIONS IN THE CCD CONCERNING "MINI-NUCS." THE UK, AS ONE OF THE NUCLEAR POWERS TO WHOM THE QUESTIONS WERE ADDRESSED, HAS RECENTLY RESPONDED (REFS (D) AND (E)).

(E) SECRETARY SCHLESINGER MADE BRIEF REFERENCE, DURING HIS STATEMENT AT THE JUNE DPC MINISTERIAL MEETING, TO THE NEED TO CONSIDER WHETHER, IN THE FUTURE, THERE ARE SERIOUS POSSIBILITIES OF REPLACING THE EXISTING STOCKPILE WITH NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND SYSTEMS MORE APPROPRIATE TO THE ENVIRONMENT OF EASTERN AND WESTERN EUROPE.

(F) THE GENERAL AREA OF ADVANCES IN NUCLEAR WEAPONS TECHNOLOGY HAS BEEN DISCUSSED IN THE AD HOC U.S., UK, FRG
SECRET

PAGE 03 NATO 04132 051504Z

STUDY TEAM WORKING ON PHASE II OF THE NPG FOLLOW-ON USE WORK PROGRAM. WE UNDERSTAND THAT A PRESENTATION ON THE SUBJECT IS TO BE MADE AT THE NEXT MEETING OF THE STUDY GROUP, IN WASHINGTON IN MID-SEPTEMBER, AND THAT A STUDY OF THE MILITARY AND POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS OF ADVANCES IN NUCLEAR WEAPONS TECHNOLOGY, UNDER NPG AUSPICES, IS ENVISIONED (REF (F)).

3. IT SEEMS CLEAR THAT OUR NATO ALLIES ARE INTERESTED IN, AND PERHAPS CONCERNED ABOUT, THE GENERAL SUBJECT OF MINI-NUCS." OUR ASSURANCES THAT WE WOULD CONSULT WITH THEM BEFORE DECIDING TO DEVELOP OR DEPLOY A "NEW FAMILY" OF SUCH WEAPONS HAVE BEEN HELPFUL, BUT A FULLER EXPOSITION

OF THE WORK WHICH THE U.S. IS DOING IN THIS AREA WOULD, WE FEEL CERTAIN, SERVE THE U.S. INTEREST. WE UNDERSTAND THAT WASHINGTON IS CURRENTLY CONSIDERING A BRIEFING TO THE NPG MINISTERS AT THE FORTHCOMING MEETING IN THE HAGUE ON NOVEMBER 6-7. WE FAVOR THIS IDEA, AND SUGGEST THAT, DEPENDING UPON THE RECEPTION WHICH THE PHASE II STUDY TEAM BRIEFING RECEIVES FROM THE UK AND FRG REPRESENTATIVES, WE MIGHT PROVIDE A SIMILAR PRESENTATION TO NPG MINISTERS.

4. SUCH A BRIEFING WOULD, FIRSTLY, PROVIDE THE U.S. WITH AN OPPORTUNITY TO VOLUNTEER ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS SOME OF OUR ALLIES HAVE ABOUT HOW FAR OUR WORK IN THIS AREA HAS PROGRESSED AND THE CURRENT AND FUTURE CAPABILITIES OF IMPROVED NUCLEAR WEAPONS. SECONDLY, IT WOULD CONSTITUTE A USEFUL AND TIMELY INITIATIVE ON THE PART OF THE U.S. IN THE NPG. THIRDLY, IT WOULD GIVE SECRETARY SCHLESINGER (IF, IN KEEPING WITH NPG TRADITIONS, HE SHOULD PRESENT THE BRIEFING HIMSELF) AN OCCASION AT THIS FIRST NPG MEETING TO DEMONSTRATE INTEREST AND CONFIDENCE IN THE NPG AS A FORUM FOR SUBSTANTIVE ALLIANCE CONSULTATION ON MATTERS OF NUCLEAR POLICY. FINALLY, IT WOULD GIVE US AN OPPORTUNITY TO EXPOSE OUR NPG ALLIES TO OUR VIEWS ABOUT THE UTILITY OF THE IMPROVEMENTS IN TACTICAL NUCLEAR WEAPONS WHICH WE ARE CONSIDERING.

5. WE ARE AWARE THAT THE RESULT OF SUCH A BRIEFING MIGHT VERY WELL BE A MINISTERIAL DECISION TO COMMISSION AN NPG STUDY OF THE IMPLICATIONS OF TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCES IN
SECRET

PAGE 04 NATO 04132 051504Z

NUCLEAR WEAPONS DEVELOPMENT--AN OUTCOME WHICH WOULD ACCORD GENERALLY WITH OUR AIMS IN THE PHASE II AD HOC STUDY TEAM.

6. IF WASHINGTON APPROVES A U.S. BRIEFING ON IMPROVED NUCLEAR WEAPONS AT THE HAGUE, WE WOULD APPRECIATE GUIDANCE TO THAT EFFECT WELL BEFORE THE MEETING SO THAT WE CAN NOTIFY THE SECRETARY GENERAL, WHO WILL ACT AS CHAIRMAN. POSSIBLE POINTS IN THE AGENDA (FIRST DRAFT POUCHED WASHINGTON ON 22 AUGUST) AT WHICH SUCH A BRIEFING MIGHT BE PRESENTED WOULD BE (A) AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE SECRETARY'S REGULAR BRIEFING ON THE STRATEGIC BALANCE, OR (B) UNDER ANY OTHER BUSINESS.
RUMSFELD

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